



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Idaho State Department of Education
March 12, 2013
www.sde.idaho.gov

Media contact:
Melissa McGrath
(208) 332-6818
mrmcgrath@sde.idaho.gov

DEPARTMENT AWARDS SCHOOL GARDEN GRANTS TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING, NUTRITION

BOISE – The Idaho State Department of Education is awarding \$26,000 to help eight schools across Idaho build school gardens, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna announced today.

Each school will receive a grant of \$2,000 to build a garden that will help promote nutrition, science and agricultural education.

“Idaho has offered school garden grants for several years and seen great results. With a school garden, students can learn critical lessons about nutrition, math, science and many other subject areas in a hands-on learning environment,” Superintendent Luna said.

Research shows that garden-based education can increase academic achievement and often result in higher test scores among students.

In addition to these eight schools, five childcare centers also funded through U.S. Department of Agriculture funding will be awarded school garden grants.

With the most recent grant funding, the schools and childcare centers will implement a wide range of innovative educational activities, from outdoor classrooms to service-learning projects. Each grant site will also be paired with a horticulture expert from the University of Idaho Extension to serve as garden mentors.

The grants are funded through a Child Nutrition Programs Team Nutrition federal grant. The grant requires that nutrition education be a part of every school garden plan, and every grant site has to allow students to taste the foods grown in the garden.

The State Department of Education will work with these schools throughout the year to create a best practices guide that other Idaho schools can use in future years if they want to incorporate a successful gardening program into the school curriculum.

The State Department of Education awarded school garden grants to 11 schools in 2008 and to 15 schools in 2010. Based on the great results these schools saw with their school gardens, the Department created the *How Our Gardens Grow* publication, which is posted online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/schoolgarden/>.

This booklet highlights the benefits of school gardens as well as how each school used its grant funding to improve student nutrition and learning.

- MORE -



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The following is a list of the 13 sites awarded garden grants this year:

<u>School / Childcare Center</u>	<u>School District / Location</u>
Heritage Middle School	Meridian Joint School District
Moscow Charter School	Moscow Charter School
Kellogg Middle and Sunnyside Elementary	Kellogg School District
Borah High School	Boise School District
Fernan Elementary	Coeur d'Alene School District
Parma Learning Center	Parma School District
Troy Elementary	Troy School District
Heritage Community Charter School	Heritage Community Charter School
Little People's Academy	Idaho Falls
Tator Tots Childcare	American Falls
Mountain Home Air Force Base Youth Programs	Mountain Home
Valley Crises Center	Nampa
Ms. Amy's Daycare	Fruitland

For more information, visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/schoolgarden/>.

#####